

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66608
DRAFTED BY: EB/OT/GCP: CLAY BLACK
APPROVED BY: EB/OT/GCP: DDUNFORD

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R 041527Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS STATE 129869

FOLL REPEAT GENEVA 3964 ACTION SERSTATE, INFO LONDON,
USUN NY, EC BRUSSELS AND OECD PARIS 28 MAY 75:

QUOTE

UNCLAS GENEVA 3964

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD EMIN ETRD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: REPORT OF EXPERTS GROUP ON INDEXATION

REF: GENEVA 3919

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REBUTTAL ISSUED BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO
IHT ARTICLE ON REPORT OF EXPERTS GROUP ON INDEXATION:

BEGIN QUOTE

IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERLAND TRIBUNE OF 26 MAY AN ARTICLE APPEARED,
UNDER THE NAME OF EDWIN L. DALE JR., ABOUT A RECENT MEETING OF A
GROUP OF EXPERTS CONVENED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO
ASSIST HIM IN PREPARING A REPORT ON THE FASIZILITY OF THE INDEX-
ATION OF COMMODITY PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR SUBMISSION TO
THE UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT
THE EXPERTS "REPORTED UNANIMOUSLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS THAT A
WIDELY HELD BELIEF ABOUT THE WORLD ECONOMY-THAT IN THE LAST 25
YEARS THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS EXPORTED BY POOR COUNTRIES HAVE
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RISEN LESS THAN THE PRICES OF THE MANUFACTURED GOODS THAT THEY
IMPORT IS NOT TRUE". IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT THE EXPERTS "DID AGREE
IN THEIR REPORT TO MR. COREA THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO LONG-TERM PRICE
TREND WORKING AGAINST THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES".

THIS NEWSPAPER REPORT IS MISLEADING. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ON THE QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAS BEEN A SECULAR OR LONG-TERM DETERIORATION IN THE TERMS OF TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, OPINIONS WITHIN THE GROUP REFERRED TO DIFFERRED WIDELY; THERE WAS IN FACT NO UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT, AS STATED IN THE ARTICLE, TH

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THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH DETERIORATION. WHAT THE GROUP OF EYPERTS AGREED IN GENERAL WAS THAT THE STATISTICAL MATERIAL WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO IT DID NOT AS SUCH PROVIDE ANY CLEAR OR CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF LONG-TERM DETERIORATION.

IN THE SECOND PLACE, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP REQUIRED IT- ACCORDING TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION IN QUESTION-TO EXAMINE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS THE ISSUE OF INDEXATION (I.E. THE POSSIBILITY OF LINKING PRICES OF COMMODITY EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PRICES OF THEIR IMPORTS) WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING PRACTICAL AND FEASIBLE SCHEMES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THE QUESTION OF TERMS OF TRADE WAS ONLY ONE ISSUE AMONG MANY OTHERS DISCUSSED BY THE GROUP AND ONWHICHTHE EXPERTS EXPRESSED DIFFERING OPINIONS. THEIR VIEWS WILL BE FULLY REFLECTED IN THE REPORT WHICH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD IS REQUIRED BY THE SAME GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TO PRESENT TO THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF UNCTAD AT ITS NEXT MEETING

IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

8, 5#8 :9.,3:589.,CONTRARY TO WHAT THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ALLEGES, THE GROUP OF EXPERTS DID NOT SUBMIT OR APPROVE A REPORT. THEREFORE IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SAY, AS THE NEWSPAPER DOES, THAT THE GROUP OF EXPERTS "HAS REPORTED UNANIMOUSLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS...". WHAT THE

GROUP OF EXPERTS DID WAS TO PREPARE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITS MAIN CONCLUSIONS, NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION-SINCE IT DID NOT COVER THE FULL RANGE OR DEPTH OF VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING THE DISCUSSIONS-BUT FOR

USE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD IN PREPARING HIS REPORT TO THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. IN BRIEF, A BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE EXPERTS' VIEWS AND FINDINGS WILL BE REFLECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THIS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

THE EXPERTS INCLUDED:

PROFESSOR JEAN BENARD, UNIVERSITY OF PARIS I

PROFESSOR CONRAD BLYTH, PROFESSOR OF ECNOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PROFESSOR H. HOUTHAKKER, DEPARTMENT OF ECNOMICS, HAVARD UNIVERSITY, U.S.A.

DR. J. O. IYANIWURA, NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECNOMIC RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA

PROFESSOR LORD KALDOR, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND

MR. FERHAT LOUNES, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ECNOMIC AFFIARS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALGIERS

PROFESSOR D. PASTORE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

MR. M. PASZYNSKI, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, WARSAW, POLAND
PROFESSOR JOHN SPRAOS, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON
MR. LEROY D. TAYLOR, IRECTOR, MACROECNOMIC AND MANPOWER PLANNING
DIVISION, NATIONAL PLANNING AGENCY, KINGSTON, JAMAICA
IN ADDITION A NUMBER OF UN AGENCIES AND THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS WERE
REPRESENTED.
END QUOTE DALE UNQUOTE

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UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, PRICE INDEXES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE129869
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/OT/GCP: CLAY BLACK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750195-1246
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506100/baaaalqr.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, UNCTAD
To: SANTO DOMINGO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006